RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 22nd April, 2002/2 Vaisakha, 1924 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 401. ...(*Interruptions*)...

प्रो॰ रामगोपाल यादवः महोदय, गुजरात की स्थिति और भी ज्यादा खराब हो गई है। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order during Question Hour. ...(*Interruptions*)... Nothing will go on record during Question Hour. ...(*Interruptions*)... During Question Hour, nothing will go on record. ...(*Interruptions*)...

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Disposal of pending cases by retired judges

*401. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a group of retired judges of Patna High Court has offered to return to the bench to assist the court to dispose of over 100,000 pending cases; and

(b) if so, Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Bihar Retired High Court Judges Society, in their meeting held on 20.1.2002, resolved to offer assistance in early disposal of pending cases in the Patna High Court. A copy of this resolution has

been forwarded to the Union Government as well as the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Patna High Court. It is for the Patna High Court to take a view in the matter.

As per the available figures, the number of cases pending in the Patna High Court was 80,956 as on 31.12.2001.

The Judge strength of each High Court is reviewed, every 3 years, taking into account certain parameters including the institution and the backlog of cases. The last such review was done in 1999 and the next review in respect of all High Courts, including Patna High Court, is due during the current year.

Facilities in Hospitals

*402. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Facilities in hospitals exist only on paper: panel", which appeared in the Hindu, dated the 18th March, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to implement the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee to provide quality medical facilities in the various medical institutes and hospitals of Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Press Report has referred to the recommendations of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development. A statement indicating the status on the points raised in the Press Report is enclosed.